

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2131

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, WA, SF

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: SAG RESPONSE TO APPROACH REGARDING KATATURA
AND SHIVUTE INCIDENTS

REF: STATE 132956

1. IN MEETING THIS MORNING WITH UNDER SECRETARY VAN DALSEN
AND OFFICER WHO HANDLES SWA AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY,
F.D. TOTHILL, I MADE POINTS CONCERNING KATATURA AND SHIVUTE
INCIDENTS REQUESTED IN REFTEL. TOTHILL DID ALL THE TALKING
ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN SIDE.

2. ON KARATURA HE CALLED ATTENTION TO "FULL REPORT" ON INCIDENTS
MADE BY JUSTICE MINISTER KRUGER ON THE AFTERNOON OF ARIL 23.
(SEE HANSARD FOR THAT DATE, VOL. II COLUMN 4673 -- COPY BEING
POUCHED.) HE ARGUED THAT SHOOTING TOOK PLACE ONLY AFTER POLICE
WERE FORCED TO RETREAT TO THE ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE AND ATTACK
CONTINUED TO POINT WHERE THEIR LIVES WERE ENDANGERED. HE DISMISSED
NEWS ACCOUNTS THAT SHOOTING TOOK PLACE AS WORKERS WERE FLEEING.
ONLY AFTER SHOTS WERE FIRED DID ATTACKERS CEASE THEOR ROCK
THROWING AND RETREAT. HE SAID THAT NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF
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THE INCIDENT WAS MADE AS MINISTER KRUGER'S REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

SPELLED OUT WHAT TOOK PLACE.

3. ON SHIVUTE CASE TOTHILL'S EXPLANATION WAS THAT INCIDENT WAS ESSENTIALLY A TRIBAL AFFAIR. AS REQUIRED BY TRIBAL CUSTOM AN OUTSIDER MUST ASK CHIEF'S PERMISSION BEFORE ENGAGING IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY WITHIN TRIBAL AREA. SHIVUTE HAD FAILED TO DO THIS. FURTHERMORE INCIDENT PASSED WITHOUT SHIVUTE MAKING A BIG THING OF IT. TO SHOW THAT SAG WAS NOT OPPOSED TO SHIVUTE, AMBASSADOR BOTHA IN RECENT TRIP TO OWAMBO WITH NEWSMEN MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEM TO INTERVIEW SHIVUTE. I STRESSED THAT SAG CANNOT EVADE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT GIVEN ITS DE FACTO CONTROL OVER ALL OF NAMIBIA. I ALSO NOTED FORMIN MULLER'S MAY 27 LETTER TO UNSYG WALDHEIM STATING THAT ANY POLITICAL GROUP IN THE TERRITORY IS FREE TO CAMPAIGN FOR AND PROPAGATE ANY CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IT LIKES AND TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PEACEFUL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. TO THIS TOTHILL RESPONDED THAT THE SAG DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE INCIDENT UNTIL AFTER IT OCCURED, AND OF COURSE DID NOT CONDONE WHAT HAPPENED. REGARDING BRINGING GUILTY PARTIES TO JUSTICE, HE AGAIN RECERTED TO STAND THAT INCIDENT WAS A MINOR TRIBAL AFFAIR AND SHIVUTE HIMSELF HAD NOT MADE AN ISSUE OF IT.
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